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THE STORY TELLER. RIVAL MECHANICIANS.

BY L. MARIA CHILD.

"I am growing old; my sight is failing very fast," said a famous watch maker of Geneva, as he wiped his spectacles to examine several chronometers, which his two apprentices laid before him. "Well done! very well done, my lads—hardly know which of you will best supply the place of old Antoine Breguet. Thirty years ago, (pardon an old man's vanity,) I could have borne away the palm from a hundred like you. But my sight is dim, and my hands tremble. I must retire from the place I have occupied in this busy world; and I confess I should like to give up my famous old stand to a worthy successor. Whichever of you produces the most perfect piece of mechanism before the end of two years, shall be my partner and representative, if Rosabella and I both agree in the decision."

The grand-daughter, who was busy spinning flax, looked up bashfully, and met the glance of the two young men. The countenance of one flushed, and his eye sparkled; the other turned very pale, and there was a painfully deep intensity in his fixed gaze.

The one who blushed was Florian Arnaud, a youth from the French Cantons. He was a slender and graceful figure, with beautiful features, clear blue eyes, and a complexion as fresh as Hyacinth, when the enamored water-nymph carried him away in their arms. He danced like a zephyr, and sang little airy French romances in the sweetest of tenor voices.

The one who turned pale, was Pierre Berthoud of Geneva. He had massy features, a bulky frame, and clumsy motions. But the shape of his head indicated a powerful intellect, and his great dark eyes glowed from under the pent house of his brows, like a forge at midnight. He played on the bass-viol and trombone, and when he sang the tones sounded as if they came up from the deep iron mines.

Rosabella turned quickly away from their expressive glances, and blushing deeply, resumed her spinning. The Frenchman felt certain the blush was for him; the Genevan thought he would willingly give his life to be sure it was for him. But unlike as the young men were in person and character, and both attracted towards the same lovely maiden, they were yet extremely friendly to each other, and usually found enjoyment in the harmonious contrast of their different gifts. The first feeling of estrangement that came between them, was one evening, when Florian sang remarkably well, and Rosabella accompanied him on her guitar. She evidently enjoyed the graceful melody more than the usual, and when the fascinating singer rose to go, she begged him to sing another favorite song; and then another and another.

"She never urges me to sing with her," he said, as he and Florian retired for the night. "Your stentorian tone would quite drown her weak sweet voice, and her light touch on the guitar. You might as well have a hammer and anvil accompaniment to a Canary Bird."

Seeing discontent in the countenance of his companion, he added, soothingly—
"Nay, my good friend, don't be offended at this playful comparison. Your voice is magnificently strong and beautifully correct, but it is made for grander things than those graceful little garlands of sound which Rosabella and I weave so easily."

Pierre sprang up quickly, and went to the other side of the room. "Rosabella and I," were sounds that went hissing through his heart like a red-hot arrow. But his manly efforts soon conquered the jealous feeling, and said cheerfully—
"Well, Florian, let us accept the offer of good father Breguet. We will try our skill fairly and honorably, and leave him and Rosabella to decide, without knowing which is your work or which is mine."

Florian suppressed a rising smile, for he thought to himself, "She will know my workmanship as easily as she could distinguish my fairy romances from your Samson Solos." But he replied right cordially—
"Honestly and truly, Pierre, I think we are, as mechanicians, very nearly equal in skill. But let us both tax our ingenuity to invent something which shall best please Rosabella. Her birthday comes in about six months. In honor of the occasion, I will make some little ornaments for the arbor facing the brook, where she loves to sit in pleasant weather, and read to the good old grandfather."

"I will do the same," answered Pierre; "only let both our ornaments be machines."

They clasped their hands, and looked frankly into each other's eyes, ratified the agreement. From that hour they spoke no more to each other on the subject, till the long anticipated day arrived. The old watchmaker and his grandchild were invited to the arbor, to pass judgment on the productions of his pupils. A sereen was placed before a portion of the brook, and they sat quietly waiting for it to be removed.

"That duck is of a singular color," exclaimed the young girl. "What a solemn looking fellow he is!"

The bird, without paying any attention to her remarks waddled into the water, drank, lifted up his bill to the sky, as if giving thanks for his refreshment, flapped his wings, floated to the edge of the brook, and waddled on the grass again. When father Breguet threw some crumbs of cake on the ground, the duck picked them up with apparent satisfaction. He was about to scatter more crumbs, when Rosabella exclaimed—
"Why, grandfather, this is not a duck! It is made of bronze! See how well it is done!"

The old man took it up and examined it. "Really, I do not think any thing could be more perfect than this," said he. "How exquisitely the features are carved, and truly the creature seems alive! He who beats this must be a skilful mechanician."

At these words Pierre and Florian stepped forward, hand in hand, and bowing to their master, removed the temporary screen. On a black marble pedestal in the brook, was seated a bronze Naiad, leaning upon an overflowing vase. The figure was inexpressibly graceful; a silver star with brilliant points gleamed on her forehead, and in her hand she held a silver bell, beautifully inlaid with gold and steel. There was a smile playing about her mouth, and she leaned over as if watching for something in a little cascade which flowed down a channel in the pedestal. Presently she raised her hand and sounded the bell. A beautiful gold fish obeyed the summons, and glided down the channel, his burnished sides glittering in the sun. Eleven times she rang the bell, and each time the gold fish darted forth. It was exactly noon, and the water nymph was a clock.

The watchmaker and his grand-daughter were silent. It was so beautiful that they could not easily find words to express their pleasure. "You need not speak, my master," said Pierre, in a nearly but sorrowful tone; "I myself decide in favor of Florian. The clock is his."

"The interior workmanship is not yet examined," rejoined his amiable competitor. "There is not a better mechanician in all Switzerland than Pierre Berthoud."

"Ah, but you know how to invest equally good workmanship with grace and beauty," replied the more heavily moulded Genevan. "Study the graces, my boy; make yourself familiar with models of beauty," said old Antoine Breguet, laying a hand upon the young man's shoulder.

"I should not imitate, and he creates," answered Pierre, despondingly; "and worse of all, my good master, I hate myself because I envy him."

"But you have many and noble gifts, Pierre," said Rosabella, gently. "You know how delicately very different instruments combine in harmony. Grandfather says your workmanship will be far more durable than Florian's. Perhaps you may both be his partners."

"But which of us will be thine?" thought Pierre. He smothered a deep sigh, and only answered—
"I thank you, Rosabella."

Well aware that these envious feelings were unworthy of a noble soul, he contended with them bravely, and treated Florian even more cordially than usual. "I will follow my good master's advice," said he; "I will try to clothe my good machinery in forms of beauty. Let us both make a watch for Rosabella, and present it to her on her next birthday. You will rival me, no doubt; for the Graces threw their garlands on you when you were born."

"Bravo!" shouted Florian, laughing and clapping his hands. "The poetry is kindling up in your soul. I always told you that you would be a poet, if you could express what was in you."

"And your soul expresses itself so easily, so fluently!" said Pierre, with a sigh.

"Because my springs lie so near the surface, and yours have depths to come from," replied his good natured companion.

"The worst of it is the cord is apt to break before I can draw up my weighty treasure," rejoined Florian, with a smile. "There is no help for it. There will always be the same difference between us that there is in our names. I am a rock, and you are a flower. I might be hewn and chiselled into harmonious proportions, but you grow into beauty."

"Then be a rock, and a magnificent one," replied his friend, "and let the flower grow at your feet."

"That sounds modestly and well," answered Pierre; "but I myself wish to be a flower, because—"

"Because what?" inquired Florian, half guessing the secret, from his embarrassed manner.

"Because I think Rosabella likes flowers better than rocks," replied Pierre, with uncommon quickness, as if the words gave him pain.

On New Year's day, the offerings, enclosed in one box, were presented by the good grandfather. The first was a golden apple, which opened, and revealed on one side an exquisitely neat watch, surrounded by a garland tastefully wrought in rich damask of steel and gold; on the other side was a rose entwined with forget-me-nots, very perfectly done mosaic. When the stem of the apple was turned, a favorite little tune of Rosabella's sounded from within.

"This is surely Florian's," thought she, and she looked for the other gift with less pleasure. It was an elegant little gold watch with a Parisian landscape, a gazelle and bird's of Paradise beautifully engraved on the back. When a spring was touched, the watch was opened, a little circular plate of gold slid away, and came a beautiful rose, round which a jewelled bell buzzed audibly. On the edge of the golden circle below, were the words "Rosabella," in ultramarine enamel. When another spring was touched, the rose went away, and the same melody that sounded from the heart of the golden apple, seemed to be played by fairies on tinkling dew drops. It paused a moment, and then struck up a lively dance. The circular plate then rolled away, and up sprang an inch-tall opera dancer, with enameled scarf, and a very small diamond on her brow. Leaping and whirling on an almost invisible thread of gold, she kept perfect time to the music, and turned her scarf most gracefully. Rosabella drew a long breath, and a rosy tinge mantled her beautiful face, as she met her grandfather's gaze lovingly upon her. She thought to herself—
"There is no doubt now which is Florian's," but she said aloud,

"They are both very beautiful, are they not, dear grandfather? I am not worthy that so much pains should be taken to please me."

The old man smiled upon her, and fondly patted the luxuriant brown hair, which shone like threads of amber in the sun.

"Which do you think the most beautiful," Rosabella asked her.

She evaded the question, by asking—
"Which do you?"

"I will tell thee when thou hast decided," answered he.

She twisted and untwisted the strings of her bodice, and said she was afraid she should not be impartial.

"Why not?" he enquired.

She looked down bashfully, and murmured in a low voice—
"Because, I can easily guess which is Florian's."

"Ah, ha!" exclaimed the kind old man, and he playfully chuckled her under the chin, as he added—
"Then I suppose I shall offend thee when I give a verdict for the bee and the opera dancer!"

She looked up blushing, and her large serious brown eye had for a moment a comic expression, as she said—
"I shall do the same."

Never were disciples of the beautiful placed in circumstances more favorable to the development of poetic souls. The cottage of Antoine Breguet was—
"In a glade,
Where the sun harbors; and one side of it
Listens to bees, another to a brook.
Lovers, that have just parted for the night,
Dream of such spots when they have said their pray-
ers."

Or some tried parent, holding by the hand
A child, and walking towards the sun."

In the stillness of the night they could hear the rushing of the arroyo Rhone. From a neighboring eminence could be seen the transparent Lake of Geneva, reflecting the deep blue heaven above. Mountains, in all fantastic forms enclosed them round; now draped in heavy masses of sombre clouds, and now half-revealed through the sun-lighted vapor, like a veil of gold. The flowing silver of little water-falls gleamed among the dark rock. Grape vines hung their rich festoons by the road side, and the beautiful barberry bush embroidered their leaves with its scarlet clusters. They lived under the same roof with a guileless old man, and a sinless maiden, just verging into womanhood; and more than all, they were both under the influence of that great inspired love.

Rosabella was so uniformly kind to both, that Pierre could never relinquish the hope that constant devotedness might in time win her affections for himself. Florian, having a more cheerful character, and more reliance on his own fascinations, was merely anxious that the lovely maiden should prefer his workmanship as decidedly as she did his person and manners. Under this powerful stimulus, in addition to the ambition excited by the old watchmaker's proposal, the competition between them was active and incessant. But the ground work of their character was so good, that all the little heart-burnings of envy and jealousy were quickly checked by the predominance of generous and kindly sentiments.

One evening Rosabella was reading to her grandfather a description of the Albino squirrel. The pure white animal with pink eyes and a feathery tale, pleased her fancy extremely, and she expressed a strong desire to see one. Pi-

erre said nothing—but not long after as they sat eating grapes after dinner, a white squirrel leaped on the table, frisked from shoulder to shoulder, and at last sat with a grape in his paws. Rosabella uttered an exclamation of delight.

"It is alive!" she said.

"Do you notice that it is?" rejoined Pierre. "Call the dog and see what he says about it."

"We have so many things here, which are alive, and yet not alive," she replied smiling.

Florian warmly praised the pretty automaton; but he was somewhat vexed that he himself did not think of making the graceful little animal for which the maiden had expressed a wish.

Her pet canary had died the day before, and his eye happened to rest on the empty cage hanging over the flower-stand. "I too, will give her a pleasure," thought he.

A few weeks after, as they sat at breakfast, sweet notes were heard from the cage, precisely the same the canary used to sing; and looking up, the astonished maiden saw him hopping about, nibbling the sugar and picking his feathers, as lively as ever. Florian smiled, and said—
"Is it as much alive as Pierre's squirrel?"

The approach of the next birth day was watched with eager expectation; for even the old man began to feel as keen pleasure in the competition as if he had witnessed a race between fleet horses. Pierre, excited by the maiden's declaration that she mistook his golden apple for Florian's workmanship, produced a much more elegant specimen of art than he had ever before conceived. It was a barometer supported by two knights in silver chain armor, who went in when it rained, and came out when the sun shone. On the top of the barometer was a small silver basket, of exceeding delicate workmanship, filled with such flowers as close in damp weather. When the knights retired, these flowers closed their enamelled petals, and when the knights returned, the flowers expanded.

Florian produced a silver chariot, with two spirited and finely proportioned horses. A revolving circle in the wheels showed the day of the week, throughout the year. Each month was surrounded by its zodiacal sign, beautifully enamelled in green, crimson and gold. At ten o'clock the figure of a young girl, wearing Rosabella's usual costume, and resembling her in form and features, ascended slowly from behind the wheel, and at the same moment, the three Graces rose up in the chariot and held garlands over her. From the axle-tree emerged a young man in Florian's dress, and kneeling offered a rose to the maiden.

It was so beautiful as a whole, and so exquisitely finished in all its details, that Pierre clenched his fingers till the nails cut him, so hard did he try to conceal the bitterness of his disappointment at his own manifest inferiority. Could he have had an hour all would have been well. But as he stepped out on the piazza, followed by Florian, he saw him kiss his hand triumphantly to Rosabella, and she returned it with a modest but expressive glance. Unfortunately he held in his hand a jewelled dagger, of Turkish workmanship, which Antoine Breguet had asked him to return to its case in the workshop. Stung with disappointment, love and ambition, the tempestuous feelings so painfully restrained, burst forth like a whirlwind. Quick as a flash of lightning he made a thrust at his graceful rival. Then, frightened at what he had done, and full of horror at thoughts of Rosabella's distress, he rushed into the road, and up the sides of the hills like a madman.

A year passed, and no one heard tidings of him. On the anniversary of Rosabella's birth, the aged granduncle sat alone, summing his white locks at the open window, when Pierre Berthoud entered, pale and haggard. He was such a skeleton of his former self that his master did not recognize him, till he knelt at his feet and said—
"Forgive me, father, I am Pierre."

The poor old man shook violently, and covered his face with trembling hands.

"Ah! wretched one," said he, "how daredst thou come hither, with murder on thy soul?"

"Murder!" exclaimed Pierre, in a voice so terribly deep and distinct that it seemed to freeze the blood of him who listened. "Is he dead? Did I kill the beautiful youth whom I loved so much?" He fell forward on the floor, and the groan that came from his strong chest was like an earthquake tearing up trees by the roots.

Antoine Breguet was deeply moved, and tears flowed fast over his furrowed face.

"Rise, my son," said he, "and make thy escape, lest they come to arrest thee."

"Let them come," replied Pierre, gloomily. "Why should I live?" Then raising his head from the floor, he said slowly, and with great fear—
"Father, where is Rosabella?"

The old man covered his face and sobbed out.

"I shall never see her again! These old eyes will never again look on her blessed face!"

"Many minutes they remained there, when he repeated, "I shall never see her face again!"

The young man clasped his hands convulsively, and groaned in agony.

At last the housekeeper came in—a woman whom Pierre had known and loved in boyhood. When her first surprise was over she promised to conceal his arrival, and persuaded him to go to the garret and try to compose his too strongly excited feelings. In the course of the day she explained to him how Florian had died of his wound, and how Rosabella pined away in silent melancholy, often sitting at the spinning wheel with the suspended thread in her hand, as if unconscious where she was. During all that wretched night the young man could not close his eyes in sleep. Phantoms of the past flitted through his brain, and remorse gnawed at his heart strings. In the deep stillness of midnight, he seemed to hear the voice of the bereaved old man, sounding mournfully distinct, "I shall never see again!" He prayed earnestly to die—but suddenly an idea flashed into his mind, and revived his desire to live. Full of his new project, he rose early and sought his good master. Sinking on his knees knees, he exclaimed—
"Oh, my father, say that you forgive me! I implore you to give my soul that one gleam of consolation. Believe me, I would sooner have died myself than have killed him. But my passions were by nature so strong. How I have cursed them, He alone knows. Alas! that they should have burst the bonds in that one mad moment, and destroyed the two best loved on earth. Oh, father, can you say that you forgive me?"

With a quivering voice, the old man replied: "I do forgive you, and bless you, my son." He laid his hand on his thick matted hair, and added, "I, too, have need of forgiveness. I did very wrong thus to put two generous natures in rivalry with each other. A genuine love of beauty, for its own sake, is the only healthy stimulus to produce the beautiful. The spirit of competition took you out of your spheres and placed you in a false position. In grand conceptions, and in works of durability and strength, you would always have excelled Florian, as much as he surpassed you in tastefulness and elegance. By striving to be what he was, you parted with your own gifts, without attaining to his. Every man in the natural sphere of his own talent, and all in harmony; this is the true order, my son; and I tempted you to violate it. In my foolish pride, I earnestly desired to have a world-renowned successor to the famous Antoine Breguet. I wanted that the old stand should be kept up in all glory, and continue to rival all competitors. I thought you could surpass his gifts to your own, and yet retain your own characteristic excellencies. Therefore I stimulated your intellect and imagination, to the utmost, without reflecting that your heart might break in the process. God forgive me—it was too severe a trial for poor human nature. And do thou, my son, forgive this insane ambition, for severely has my pride been humbled."

Pierre could not speak, but he covered the wrinkled hands with kisses, and clasped his knees convulsively. At last he said—
"Let me remain concealed here for awhile. You shall see her again, only give me time." When he exclaimed that he would make Rosabella's likeness from memory, the sorrowing parent shook his head and sighed as he answered:—
"Ah, my son, the soul in her eye, and the light grace of her motions, no art can transfer."

But to Pierre's excited imagination there was henceforth only one object in life, and that was to re-produce Rosabella. In the keen conflict of competition, under the fiery stimulus of love and ambition, his strong and impetuous soul had become machine-mad; and now overwhelming grief centered all his stormy energies on one object. Day by day, in the loneliness of his garret, he worked upon the image until he came to love it almost as he had loved the maiden herself. Antoine Breguet readily supplied materials. From childhood he had been interested in all forms of mechanism; and this image so entwined with his affections, took a strong hold of his imagination also. Nearly a year had passed away, when the housekeeper, who was in the secret, came to ask for Rosabella's hair, and the dress she usually wore. The old man gave her the keys, and wiped the starting tears as he turned silently away. A few days after, Pierre invited him to come and look upon his work.

"Do not go too suddenly," he said; "prepare yourself for a shock; for indeed it is very like our lost one."

"I will go—I will go," replied the old man, eagerly. "Am I not accustomed to see all manner of automata and arrolides? Did I not myself make a flute player which performed sixteen tunes, to the admiration of all who heard him? And think you I shall be frightened by an image?"

"Not frightened, dear father," answered Pierre, "but I was afraid you might be overcome with emotion." He led him to the apartment, and said, "Shall I remove the veil now? Can you bear it, dear father?"

"I can," was the calm reply. But when the curtain was removed, he started and exclaimed, "Santa Maria! It is Rosabella! She is not dead!"

He tottered forward and kissed the cold lips and cold hands, and tears rained on the bright brown hair, as he cried out—
"My child! my child!"

When the tumult of feeling had subsided, the old man kissed Pierre's hands, and said—
"It is wonderfully like her in every feature."

And in every tint. It seems as if she would move and breathe."

"It will move and breathe," replied Pierre; "only give me time."

His voice sounded so wildly, and his great, deep-set eyes burned with such intense enthusiasm, that his friend was alarmed. They clasped each other's hands, and spoke more quietly of the beloved one.

"This is all that remains to us," said the old man, "we are alone in the world. You were a friendless orphan when you came to me; and I am childless."

With a passionate outburst of grief, the young man replied—
"And I was I, my benefactor, who made you so. Wretch that I am!"

From that time the work went with greater zeal than ever. Pierre often forgot to taste his food, so absorbed was he in the perfection of his machine. First the arms moved obedient to his wishes, then the eyes turned, and the lips parted. Meanwhile his own face grew thinner and paler, and his eyes glowed with a wilder fire.

Finally it was whispered that Pierre Berthoud was concealed in Antoine Breguet's cottage and officers came to arrest him. But the venerable watchmaker told the story so touching, and painted so highly the young man's charming agony of grief and remorse, and pleaded so earnestly that he might be allowed to finish a wonderful image of his beautiful grandchild; that they promised not to disturb him till the work was accomplished.

Two years from the day of Pierre's return, on the anniversary of the memorable birthday, he said—
"Now, my father, I have done all that art can do. Come and see the beautiful one."

He led him into the little room where Rosabella used to work. There she sat, spinning diligently. The beautiful formed bust rose and fell under her neat bodice. Her lips were parted, and her eyes followed the direction of the thread. But what made it seem more fearfully like life, was the fact that over and over she wheeled round, and the maiden held the suspended thread, with her eyes lowered; as if she were lost in thought. Above the flower stand, near by, hung the bird-cage, with Florian's artificial Canary. The pretty little automaton had been long silent; but now its springs were set in motion, and it poured forth all its melodies.

The bereaved old man pressed Pierre's hand, and gazed upon his darling grand-child silently. He caused his arm chair to be brought into the room, and ever after, while he retained his faculties, he refused to sit elsewhere.

The fame of this remarkable android soon spread through all the region round about. The citizens of Geneva united in earnest petition that the artist might be excused from any penalty for the accidental murder he had committed. The magistrates came and looked at the breathing maiden, and touched the beautiful flesh, which seemed as if it would yield to their pressure. They saw the wild, haggard artist, with lines of suffering cut so deeply in his youthful brow, and they at once granted the prayer of the citizens.

But Pierre had nothing more to live for—his work in the world was done. The artificial energy supplied by one absorbing idea, was gone; and the contemplation of his own work was driving him to madness. It so closely resembled life that he longed more and more to have it live. The insatiable eyes moved, but they had no light from the soul, and they would not answer to his earnest gaze. The beautiful lips parted, but they never spoke kind words as in the days of yore. The image began to fill him with supernatural awe, yet he was continually drawn towards it by a resistless influence. Three months after its completion, he was found at daylight, lying at his feet, stone dead.

Antoine Breguet survived two years. During the first eighteen months, he was never willing to have the image of his lost darling out of his sight. The latter part of the time he often whistled to the bird, and talked to her, and seemed to imagine that she answered him. But with increasing imbecility, Rosabella was forgotten. He sometimes asked—
"Who is that young woman?" And at last, he said—
"Send her away—she looks at me!"

The magic lantern of departing memory then presented a phantom of his wife, dead long ago. He busied himself with making imaginary watches and rings for her, and held long conversations as if she were present. Afterwards, the wife was likewise forgotten, and he was occupied entirely with his mother, and the scenes of early childhood. Finally he wept often, and repeated continually, "They are all waiting for me, and I want to go home." When he was eighty years old, compassionate angels took the weary pilgrim in their arms and carried him home.

What's the news, neighbor?

"O, not much in particular—they say bread-stuffs are in a rapid decline."

"That's no news—they've been in consumption all winter."

"Is that a lightning bug in the street?" asked a purblind old lady.

"No, grandma," said a pert Miss, "it's a big bug with a wig."

FROM MEXICO. The New Orleans Picayune of the 13th says El Regimiento of June 29th gives information in relation to the American prisoners, from which it appears that they have left the capital for Huejutla. The 180 Yankee prisoners of war whom the government sent by this route, have been detained at the above named town, and we learn that General Garay has not the necessary means for supplying them with food.

The Republican says our army is to insignificant to advance, but hopes it is true that Gen. Scott intends doing so, as it will afford a good test of the fidelity of those Mexicans who have pledged themselves to defend the capital till death.

On the 25th ult. rumors, which the Republicans call very alarming, were in circulation in the capital. It was said that the Mexican government had acceded to the mediation of England. That the English secretary of legation had been down to Puebla and returned on the 24th, that the object of his visit was to negotiate with Gen. Scott a treaty of peace, and that terms agreed upon between them would be the surrender of the California to the Americans; the recognition of the independence of Texas, and the acknowledgment of the line of 36 degrees as the northern boundary between the United States and Mexico. This line would give Santa Fe, and over a third of New Mexico, to the United States.

Santa Anna celebrated his birth day by a banquet, which was censured by the press. Mexican troops at Matamoros were suffering much sickness.

Gen. Ricon has been restored to the command which he resigned along with Bravo. Santa Anna issued a decree of indemnity for all political offences on the 14th.

The blockade of Mazatlan, June 29th, is represented as being strictly maintained by the Cyano, Independencia and Eliza.

Fifty officers have been promoted by government for good conduct at Buena Vista.

El Razonador calls the earnest attention of government to the immense contraband trade carried on from the ports of San Sebastian and Mazatlan. Immense quantities of bullion are taken thither from Zacatecas and clandestinely sent on board of English vessels of war. The English ship Charysfort is charged with having received large sums on board.

El Republicano gives the vote of the different states at the presidential election on the 15th of May, and says the 81st article of the constitution provides that to make an election valid, three-fourths of the states entitled to a vote must vote. As there were twenty-three states entitled to vote at the late election, and only fifteen votes were cast, being less than three-fourths, the election has failed.

LATER FROM THE PACIFIC. Lieut. Harrison, of the U. S. Navy, came passenger in the ship Norma, arrived yesterday from Havana. He is bearer of despatches from Com. Biddle and Gen. Kearny, dated Monterey, California, March 18th. Lieut. H. came by way of Valparaiso and Panama, but brings nothing of interest from the western coast. The difficulties existing between Peru and Bolivia, it was apprehended would result in war. The Peruvian navy, consisting of two brigs and two schooners were anchored off Africa, preparing to assist in defence of the town, which was threatened by the Bolivians. The U. S. frigate Savannah, Capt. Morine, was to sail from Valparaiso June 1st, for Rio and New York.

About the 12th of May, the whole ship Stomington was spoken, 75 days from St. Blas: she was bound to Chili. Her captain had been made prisoner by the Mexicans at St. Blas; but was subsequently released and sailed for the United States. [N. Y. Herald.]

NO LATER FROM MEXICO. Vera Cruz dates to the 7th, and letters from the city of Mexico, from Major Gaines, to the 26th, have been received at New Orleans. The rank and file of prisoners amount to one hundred and seventy, who have been released and sent to Tampico. The officers are still in Mexico; but Major Gaines had received assurance from Gen. Scott that immediately on his arrival in the vicinity of the city he will make peremptory demands for their release.

Gen. Scott had exerted himself in vain to insure their release. Major Gaines says all of Gen. Scott's measures are taken preparatory to moving onwards, and preparations are nearly completed, having force sufficient to accomplish his objects effectually, and had positive information of his readiness to move on the capital three or four days from the date of the letter.

TROOPS IN GEN. SCOTT'S ARMY. We learn at the adjutant general's office that more than seven thousand troops (new regiments and reorganized companies of the old) have been sent to reinforce the army under Maj. General Scott; and the official reports have been received, which show that nearly five thousand had arrived at Vera Cruz between the 23d of May and 26th of June, and which, we understand, have been pushed forward to join the advancing column of the army with all practical expedition.

The entire force in advance of Vera Cruz, operating in the interior and moving in the direction of the capital, exceeds fifteen thousand. These are, of course, exclusive of the garrisons at Tampico and Vera Cruz. It is impossible to determine what deduction should be made on account of the sick; but, according to the best judgment of military men, it should be put down at not less than 2,500; which would make the efficient force in the heart of Mexico about thirteen thousand, exclusive of staff corps.

[Washington Union.]

What sort of keys are required to unlock the Halls of the Montezumas? D'ye give it up? The Yan-kees, to be sure.

VERA CRUZ.—The following extract from a letter dated Vera Cruz, June 28th, from an officer of the army, though written without a design for publication, will be read with interest.

"The Castle, which is so celebrated, I visited to-day. It is a more extensive work than any in the United States. It has a sea-battery nearly a mile in circumference, and has been enlarged by adding an additional battery wall along the whole side of the main Castle. It will take 3000 men to man it. It is at present commanded by Maj. Clark, who has only a small garrison of 100 men. It is as healthy as any place, since our folks have policed it and cleaned it. It has a vast quantity of ammunition and heavy guns; seven water tanks, which hold 100,000 cubic feet of water, supplied by rain. It is built of common porous coral stone, and very soft, but so thick that the balls make but little impression, except on the edges of the embrasures, and corners of the battlements—these are pretty well battered up. The quarters in it are not near as comfortable as Fort Adams. I should think the enemy would feel ashamed of having surrendered it. The town is built on the same plain as Havana, though it is not near one third as large. It is walled all round, and flanked by two forts, which appear to be strong enough. The town is white, and made up of domes, and minarets and towers. The most of the inhabitants are squalid and poor enough. There is no place where ships can haul in, but there is a large mole or wharf built of stone, about 40 rods long and 20 wide, with cranes on each side, and lighters beyond number. It is quite sickly in the city, but it is not malarial. The medical director says it is mild yellow fever, and yields readily to timely treatment. The troops are not allowed to go into the city, because they will eat and drink too much of things that are injurious; they are encamped about a mile below the city, on the banks of the bay, where the sea-breeze is delightful, and where the water is good. There are about 200 artillery, 200 dragoons, 100 volunteers, and about 1000 infantry; we are soon to leave for Jalapa, with a train. There is nothing between us and Gen. Scott, and we are to join him as soon as possible. The men are in good health and spirits. A steamer has just arrived from New Orleans, full of troops—300 or 400 from Tennessee." A. T. P.

Extract from a letter dated city of Mexico, June 30.—
"We are in the extremity of confusion and distress. The whole capital is more like a prison or slaughter house than anything else. The poor shivering citizens, anxious to hasten the Americans, from whom they expect protection, dare not open their mouths, nor scarcely move, they are so fearful of the soldiers and robbers, who have been gathered here from all the dens and holes of the country. The most exaggerated and extravagant reports are in circulation—the entire population are in constant apprehension of some terrible blow, and could not be more excited by a summons from the other world. They look upon Generals Taylor and Scott as men of more consequence than all the crowned heads on earth. About 12 o'clock last night an alarm was given, which roused cavalry, infantry and citizens, who commenced pelting, ringing the bells and firing cannon; and it less than ten minutes the streets were full, expecting to meet Gen. Scott, who was said to be near the gates, leading his mortars with 18-inch shells. Men, women and children half dressed or with only their night clothes on, might be seen running some towards Gaudalupe, some towards Tacubaya, and others to and fro while a heavy storm of thunder and lightning glared over the terror-stricken city. Many took the thunder and lightning to be Gen. Scott bombarding the walls, and such as had courage began to arm, some with old guns, some with knives, or whatever they could lay their hands on, and thus equipped rushed into the plaza, in front of the palace, where, in a huddled mass, they awaited annihilation as they believed. The priests hurried to the church altars to implore forgiveness for the last great sin and prepare to come under the United States, and thousands of the populace rushed after them, filling the churches waving burning candles in their hands. In the meantime the robbers, who are believed to have raised the alarm on purpose, plundered houses and stores, stripped slaves from the women in the streets and churches, and a number of citizens were trampled to death or killed outright in the terrible crowd. Under this dreadful state of things no business can be done. Every one keeps his doors barred and bolted—debts are repudiated—and nobody thinks of honor, relationship or society, beyond taking care of his own life."

The Mexican population of this city, we are credibly informed, has increased upwards of a thousand within the last eighty days, "and the cry is still they come." The new comers are represented as wounded and discharged Mexican soldiers, in search of employment. Many officers are also said to have arrived. They are all honest and deserving people, no doubt, but it is well to keep an eye on them for all that. [Matamoros Flag.]

The National Intelligencer of July 10 says—
"At this instant the executive is pressing upon Mexico for a negotiation, terms of fair and honorable peace for both sides."

Now, whiggies, do not accuse the President of desiring to prolong the war, after this.

The French government has ordered that scientific men in all the departments shall examine microscopically, every fortnight, the growing potatoes in the several districts, with a view to discover if the plant be again tainted, and the cause, if such a calamity again arise.

UNDER THE FIFTH RIB.

Col. Doniphan, the brave soldier whose praise is in all the papers, went to the war as a whig, and for aught we know, has returned one. At a late meeting in St. Louis, he made a speech, an extract from which we publish for the particular benefit of the leading federalists of Maine. If the rebukes do not cut them to the core, it will be because the core is rotten.

"Men who were engrossed in the strife of political prejudices were willing, like Roderick Dhu and Fitz James, to lay aside those prejudices, for the time, when a common enemy was to be engaged; to renew their friendships, if ever, when peace should be restored. Fellow citizens, I wish the same patriotic feeling had existed in the councils of this nation. I wish that Mexico could have seen the same unanimity in our people, in the prosecution of this war, that they have seen in our forces, in the field. I recollect well the impression made on my mind, on one occasion, when an express sent by me to Gen. Wool brought me such stray papers as had found their way to the general's camp; the latest dates were of the 29th November; consequently we had seen nothing of the proceedings of the last session of Congress, or the President's message.

The first thing I cast my eye upon was a speech of Mr. Corwin, Senator from Ohio, denouncing the war, and those engaged in it as little better than a band of robbers. Gentlemen, a winter shower bath would have been pleasant compared to my sensations on reading it! Freezing—chilling! Such speeches might have been popular in the United States, but place yourselves where we have been and endure what we have undergone, and then imagine our sensations! We were in a city numbering in population at least twenty times our force, and surrounded by enemies on both sides. We had crossed the Sierra Madre, and found when we had arrived at Chihuahua that we were looked upon as little better than a band of robbers! Fellow citizens, the speeches which are made in opposition to this war are said to emanate from the peace party—but I say they are made by those who are postponing the peace eternally!"

ANOTHER BOX FOR THE ADVERTISER.

The following letter was addressed to a gentleman in Troy, N. Y., and appears in the Post in that city. It is traveling the rounds of the press; and, though rather late, we give it to our readers as a part of the political history of the times. Gen. Taylor says, "I will not make the candidate of ANY PARTY or CLIQUE," and so far corroborates his Cincinnati letter. The federalists are certainly in a bad way. If they must have a military chieftain, let them take Santa Anna. His sentiments and theirs closely agree. Argus.

Headquarters Army of Occupation, Camp near Monterey, May 29, 1847.
Dear Sir—It is with much pleasure that I acknowledge the receipt of your most interesting letter of the first inst. and to which I desire to reply in terms more expressive of my thanks to you for your kind consideration for myself, and yet more so of my high appreciation of the upright and patriotic sentiments which are the principal tenor of your letter; but I am burdened with official duties, and at this moment, with many letters from distant sources which require attention and will necessarily oblige me to reply to you in a few lines.

The Presidential office presents no inducements to me to seek its honors or responsibilities; the tranquillity of private life, on the contrary, is the great object of my aspirations on the conclusion of the war—but I am not insensible to the persuasion that my services are yet due to the country, as the country shall see fit to command them; if still as a soldier, I am satisfied; if in higher and more responsible duties, I desire not to oppose the manifest wish of the people—but I will not be the candidate of any party or clique, and should the nation at large seek to place me in the chair of chief magistracy, the good of all parties and national good would be my great and absorbing aim.

Sentiments such as these have been the burden of my replies to all who have addressed me on this subject, expressing the assurance that by the spontaneous and unanimous voice of the people alone, and from no agency of my own, can I be withdrawn from the cherished hopes of private retirement and tranquillity when peace shall return.

Please accept, with this my brief reply, the warm appreciation and high consideration of Yours most sincerely,
Z. TAYLOR, Maj. Gen. U. S. A.

A HAND HIT. The Boston Courier, in alluding to a late letter from Gen. Taylor, thus hits the Ashland Farmer:—
"He undoubtedly covets a nomination from both the great political parties. Perhaps he might strengthen his chance, if he should unite himself in communion with one popular church and be baptised according to the form of another."

Col. Benton said to Col. Doniphan, in his welcome speech.—"You marched farther than the farthest, fought as well as the best, left order and quiet in your train, and cost less money than any."

There are hanging on the whig party, as there are upon every party, men whose only object is a share of the spoils, says the Providence Journal, and we do not doubt the fact.

The whigs talk of making Butts speaker of congress? If they do they will not only have the Butts but the staggers, also.

SPECIE. The amount of specie brought by the Britannia, entered at the Boston Custom House, Monday, was \$170,000.

THE TWO AMERICAN MARINES AT HAVANA.

The "Delaware Gazette" of yesterday publishes a letter from Mr. James H. Jones, of the marine corps, written on the 17th ult., complaining of his treatment by the Spanish authorities. He concludes by saying that our consul (Mr. Campbell) "succeeded in obtaining for us our liberty, on our parole of honor, until he could hear from the captain general, as he had written to him asking for our release; an answer was received last evening, refusing in the most positive manner, to release us. And I am informed by authority that it is the intention of the captain of the port to confine us in the common jail to-morrow (Monday). You may rest assured that I will not submit to this, without making a strenuous protest, against it. ***** I forgot to mention, they seized our boat and placed a guard over her."

The editor of the Delaware "Gazette" adds that—
"Lieut. Jones was one of the officers of the regiment of marines shipped from Philadelphia for Vera Cruz, to join Gen. Scott, in the ship Atlas, chartered by the United States for the purpose shortly since."

We understand the facts in the case to be that the ship chartered as a transport, to take a detachment of marines to Vera Cruz from New York, appeared off the harbor of Havana. A boat with three lieutenants of marines, and Mr. Twigg, with a boat's crew, left the ship, and after some parley at the Moro Castle, they entered the harbor, and landed at the step at the port captain's office. The American officers did not intend to enter in violation of the laws of the island; but they did enter without lawful authority, and in violation of the sanitary laws; for which they were arrested. The penalty was a fine of \$200 each. The consul requested the governor to remit the fine. The governor agreed to do this, if the master of the vessel would make entry, and if on inspection by a health officer, there was found to be no contagious disease on board. The captain of the transport refused to comply with Lieutenant Colonel Watson's request, or to obey his order to this effect; because, in doing so, he would have forfeited his policy of insurance.

Lieuts. Baker and Rich paid their fines, and sailed in the transport. Mr. Campbell offered to advance the money and pay the fine of Lieut. Jones and Mr. Twigg, which they declined, and instructed him by letter, not to make the payment. On the consul's pledge of honor that they would not leave Havana without paying the fine, they were set at liberty, and we cannot believe that they would be imprudent.

There seems to be nothing in the case which would justify a complaint of the conduct of Gen. O'Donnell, who, we beg leave to say, has been distinguished by his justice and kindness towards the citizens of the United States. These young gentlemen did not design to violate the quarantine laws—that is very clear; they endeavored to avoid doing so; but, for want of proper information, they did violate these regulations, and it would seem to have been better to pay the penalty and leave their application for its remission in the hands of the consul, and go with the transport in execution of the orders of their government, than to attempt to make a national question with our neighbors out of such facts.

THE BRITISH IN CHINA. We suppose that the doings of Sir John Davis will not be disavowed or set aside by the government at home; they may be disappointed, perhaps, by the English press, or some portion of it, but we venture to say that the disapproval will be conveyed in moderate if not very gentle language. There will be no such talk of infamy, of monstrous and unheard-of cruelty, barbarism, &c., &c., from the London Times, Mr. Douglas Jerrold and others, as was shouted aloud when Vera Cruz was bombarded by General Scott. Yet it was such a monstrous thing for Gen. Scott to bombard the city of Vera Cruz after weeks of warning preparation—giving ample time and opportunity for women and children to be placed beyond the reach of danger—what shall we say to Sir John Davis, who had actually resolved and prepared to bombard the city of Canton without a day of warning, who came suddenly upon the city, in time of peace, when there could be no expectation of attack, when there was chance of escape for not a woman or a child among all those teeming thousands, and coolly announced to the native authorities that if all his demands were not yielded at once, he would rain his shells and cannon balls upon their heads? Verily, we shall await with some interest a Times comparison between the conduct of General Scott and that of Sir John Davis. [N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.]

Mr. Longworth, of Cincinnati, said to a horticultural society, the other day—
"I will, next meeting, show you the ninth wonder of the world. When at New Orleans three years since, a lady presented me with a dried-up plant, that for three years had been deposited in her bedroom, and never in contact with earth or water. It has been on a shelf in my room for three years, and for six years has been as dry and shrivelled as a root of parsley would be after being six years out of the ground in a warm room. I will in three hours there-after show it to you fully expanded, in full growth and vigor."

We know of some few human plants that would give Mr. L. a jewel if he would impart to them freshness and vigor.

A lady, a regular "shopper," who made an unfortunate clerk tumble over all the stockings in his shop—they were full goods—objected that none were long enough. "I want the very longest heels that are made." Then, madam, you had better apply at the next Engine House."

SALE OF LIVERPOOL LINERS.

The New York Express says: "A large and unusual sale was made at auction, by L. M. Hoffman & son, of a large portion of the line of packets, composed of the ships Garrick, Siddons, Sheridan and Roscius were knocked down to H. & D. Colclach, at the rate of one hundred and seventy-four thousand dollars for the whole. The present agent, E. K. Collins, was the founder of this line. It is understood that he sells out his interest palparatory to his establishing a line of steamers."

OXFORD DEMOCRAT.

PARIS, JULY 27, 1847.

"The Union—must be preserved."

Oxford Senatorial and County Conventions.

A Convention of the DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICANS of Oxford Senatorial District will be held by their Delegates at the Court House in Paris, on Friday, the nineteenth day of August next, at ten of the clock A. M., for the purpose of selecting three candidates for the next session of the State Senate, to be supported at the ensuing election.

Also a Convention of the DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICANS of the County of Oxford will be held on the same day, at the same place, at ten of the clock P. M., for the purpose of selecting one Candidate for County Commissioner, and a Candidate for County Representative to be supported at the ensuing election. The actual basis of representation will be observed. All towns and Plantations which give five Democratic votes, or a less number, will be entitled to one Delegate; over fifty and less than one hundred and twenty-five, two; over one hundred and twenty-five and less than two hundred and fifty, three; over two hundred and fifty and less than four hundred, four; and over four hundred, five Delegates.

By Order of County Committee.

July 12th, 1847.

Fourth Congressional District.

As there is no Committee in the Oxford portion of the 4th Congressional District, and as it is understood that the Oxford towns are to select a Delegate to attend the next National Convention for the nomination of candidates for President and Vice President, it may be deemed important for the several towns in said District, that said Delegates to the Democratic County Convention to be held at Paris on the 19th of August next, to take the same into consideration, as it will be important to secure a Delegate or take some action thereon.

By Request.

Circular.

THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICANS of the town of Paris are notified and requested to meet at the Town House on Paris Hill, on SATURDAY, AUGUST, SEVENTH, at four o'clock P. M., for the purpose of selecting four Delegates to attend the Senatorial and County Conventions to be held at the Court House in said town on the 19th of August next.

Also to nominate a candidate to be supported at the ensuing election, for Representative to the next Legislature.

A punctual and full attendance is requested.

By Order of Town Committee.

Paris, July 26, 1847.

Election, Monday, September 13.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN NOMINATION.

FOR GOVERNOR.

John W. Dana.

DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLE.

A certain federal clergyman said in substance not long since, that "Democracy in this country is carried to excess, and is the very spirit which Christianity endeavors to subdue. From feeling as many do that they ought to have no human being above them, the transition is easy to feeling that divine authority is too great a restraint. From feeling that they ought to share equal privileges and advantages with others, without respect to talents, and conduct, they come to believe that they ought to share all the blessings of religion, without regard to character. As for those restraints which the gospel would impose on man's opinions, they are a violation of political rights—they cannot be endured. They are unconstitutional. The people must not only have a democratic government, but a democratic religion, that gives independence to the limitation, and a democratic deity, who bestows with equal favor all descriptions of character, and a democratic heaven, which all the people have free, equal and unalienable right to enter, without regard to conduct, just as they have to vote in town meeting. This wild spirit allies itself with all forms of infidelity—democracy and infidelity went hand in hand in the French Revolution, and does the same thing now, being of course entirely adverse to Christianity."

Now the distinctive features of the DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLE are entirely the reverse of what they are represented in the above statements. It goes hand in hand with the true spirit of Christianity; while it declares "equal privileges," it "respects talents and conduct" it looks to the man, and not to the money which he may possess; it has faith in humanity—confidence in man; it looks through the clerical robes of the "Pharisee and hypocrite" to the heart, and if that be right, it does not ask for forms or ceremonies, compulsory laws and endowed establishments; it proclaims freedom of thought; freedom of religion; and the progress of humanity in all that elevates and adorns; it would make men what they are intended to be, but little lower than the angels. Were it not for the opposition it has received in this and other countries, it would have rendered important aid in christianizing the world. Opposed to religion? Is there more pure religion under despotism and monarchial governments, than under republican governments? Has infidelity been exhibited only in the United States, and France during the Revolution? Did our fathers flee from the influence of the DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLE, to shelter themselves under the broad, liberal and tolerant shield of despotism? Or did they not rather prefer the dangers of the ocean, the privations and hardships of the wilderness, and the tender mercies of the Indians, who acknowledge no earthly masters, and who roam in the wilderness of freedom through their native forests, in no fear of the danger on and the stake for the free expression of their theological heresies—and

whose untutored mind rises to the clouds, or whose line is the wheel?

We would call the attention of millers and mill-owners to the advertisement of Mr. BEAL, to be found in another column of to-day's paper. We should think an active, intelligent and responsible man would do well to secure an agency for the Corn Cracker for this State. We understand Mr. Beal would give to such an one an application a fair field for the sale. The Machine, with two or three exceptions, has not as yet been introduced in this State, and from the best information we can obtain in relation to it, we believe it would prove a very useful, and in fact a very profitable appendage to be attached to any grain mill. For the other purposes for which it is designed we have no doubt of its perfect adaptation.

THE NEW PLANET. A new paper with this title has been issued in Belfast, W. L. Avery editor, H. K. Kimball printer. It is neutral in politics, and thus occupying a position favorably for the consideration of all matters of general interest, and space for matters of a literary and scientific character, will no doubt prove an acceptable addition to our newspaper literature.

The authorities of Charleston have granted licenses for the sale of liquors. One of the papers indicates that the Banker Hill Monument has become a greater curiosity than ever, and has been much visited of late.

At a fire in Boston, on Tuesday, 13th inst., one of the buildings consumed was the famous "Joel Lawrence" house, in which Maria Bleckford was imprisoned.

What was it but the kindling spark of the democratic principle that lit up the fires of the Reformation? What was it but its antagonistic principle which shed the blood of the martyrs, and has sacrificed its thousands and tens of thousands upon the altar of a soulless despotism? Why, the man, that will assert at this day, that the democratic principle is adverse to Christianity, is deserving of no better fate than to be a slave of some foreign despot. Will he learn to value, and respect, the civil and religious institutions of a Free and Democratic Government?

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